

June 17, 2022

Future 6th Grade Parents and Guardians,

We are looking forward to welcoming your 6th graders to Anacortes Middle School for the 2022-23 school year! One of the exciting things we have in store for this group of 6th graders is a trip to Camp Orkila, located on Orcas Island on Sept 21-23, 2022. This is only TWO WEEKS from the start of school! Camp is a great opportunity for students and staff to come together, get to know one another, and build lasting bonds for the remainder of the school year and beyond. While at camp, students will participate in outdoor education activities that encourage them to challenge themselves, push past fears, establish new friendships, and work together - all while learning about and enjoying nature.

The cost of sending an entire class of 6th graders to Camp Orkila is quite high. Therefore, it is necessary that we ask families to pay some of the cost. This year, the cost for students could be as much as \$160. This amount could change if we get additional donations or outside funding. No child will be denied the opportunity to attend camp due to financial constraints. If you are unable to afford the fee, call the AMS main office at (360)503-1230 or email Ashley King at aking@asd103.org and let us know the portion of the cost that you are able to pay, and your child will receive a scholarship for the remaining amount. **The Anacortes Middle School main office will be open starting August 22 to accept payments, permission slips, etc.**

In order to make camp a success, we need many parent chaperones to join us. Chaperone duties include supporting and assisting camp staff during daytime activities, supervising mealtimes and recreation times, and monitoring students in cabins at night. In addition, some of the chaperones will be asked to drive their vehicles to camp to haul luggage and sleeping bags. Chaperones will need to pay \$160 to attend camp, which is the cost AMS is charged by Camp Orkila. **If you are interested in chaperoning our trip, please send an email to Abby Biederman at abiederman@asd103.org as soon as possible even if you are not positive you can attend.** In addition, you will be required to fill out a volunteer form with the district. These forms will become available July 15. See the district website for more information about volunteering or contact Connie Sheridan at csheridan@asd103.org. Please note that current regulations require volunteers to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. It is unclear if that requirement will still be in place in the fall.

If your child will need to take ANY medication at camp (prescription or over-the-counter), please complete the form below and contact Nurse Annie Monroe at mmonroe@asd103.org right away to make arrangements. Again, we have only two weeks from the beginning of school until we leave for camp. **Please do not wait until the last minute to complete the paperwork. All medication forms require a doctor signature per school policy.** If your child has any special dietary needs, please see the dietary form below with information about who to contact so that your child has appropriate food choices at camp. Students will need to bring a fully disposable sack lunch for the first day of the trip, but all other meals will be provided at camp.

Included in this communication is a packing list for camp. It is our hope that by providing it to you early, you will be able to obtain all the necessary items by going through what you have at home, borrowing from a friend, or maybe buying a used item to get them through their time at camp. It is not necessary to go out and buy new or expensive times for Camp Orkila.

Be on the lookout for more information to come home later in the summer. Please direct any questions regarding Camp Orkila to Abby Biederman at abiederman@asd103.org.

Sincerely,

Ms. duNann - AMS Principal

Ms. Biederman - Orkila Coordinator

**Important forms below: Packing List (page 2), permissions slip (page 3-4), medication form (page 5-6), dietary form (page 7-8)*